Overseas interest in Indian rickshaws

1209. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many overseas countries have evinced keen interest in importing rickshaws from India for joyrides in parks and fun re-

(b) if so, whether India herself could promote transportation in rural and semi-urban areas solely through Rickshaws, banning automotive vehicles to restrict pollution and provide employment to masses; and

(c) whether Government would evolve a scheme whereby rural unemployed youth could be provided with Rickshaws in lieu of unemployment doles to support themselves and earn a living?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Schemes for aged people

1210. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to 1991 census there had been a steep increase in the percentage of aged people to the total population;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that various schemes implemented at the Central and State levels to help our senior citizens are totally inadequate; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps are taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The proportions of population aged 60 plus and 65 plus as per 1981 Census were 6.2 per cent and 4.0 per cent respectively. The corresponding figures based on 1991 Census have not yet been compiled. The Standing Committee of Experts on Population Projects appointed by the Planning Commission had estimated in 1989 that the corresponding proportions may increase to 6.5 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively for population aged 60 plus and 65 plus by 1991.

(c) and (d) Besides the Pension Schemes being implemented by the State Governments, the Central Government have launched a Scheme to assist voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare of aged. So far 50 Old Age Homes and about 147 Day Care Centres have been set up under the Scheme. These measures are in addition to the programmes run for the Welfare of aged by Voluntary organisations on their own. Efforts are being made to reach out to all the segments of the aged population which are in need of care by the State. It would, therefore, not be correct to say that various schemes implemented at the Central and State levels to help our senior citizens are totally inadequate.

Special National Plan for School going children in tribal areas

1211. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has formulated a special National Plan for school going children in tribal areas in the State;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) what are the total tribal kids likely to be covered under the scheme;

(d) to what extent the Centre has agreed to provide funds for implementation of the scheme; and

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. On receipt of the same, a reply will be placed on the Table of the House.